

Habitat Homeowner-In-Progress: Hobbs/Everette Family

When Jerri Hobbs and her husband, Michael Everette, applied to become Habitat homeowners in 2020, they weren't sure if they would make it. They knew there was a good chance they would qualify, but it was their second time applying after not being among those chosen their first time around.

Still, Jerri said, they and their daughter, My'Chea, 14, were "tired of living in a mobile home," and knew they had to keep trying. Despite

the assistance they had received from WAGES' weatherization program years ago, they knew their mobile home was not going to last much longer. And so, Jerri explained, she and Michael had been trying to find a place to buy – a place that could be their forever home. But despite their best efforts to work with local banks and credit unions, they kept running into issues with their low-income and prior credit issues.

"I'd been trying to do it on my own and it was just one thing after another," Jerri said.

Then, she explained, they heard about Habitat for Humanity and thought they would give it a try. But after being turned down once, she said wasn't holding her breath, until she saw that she had missed a call from Habitat Goldsboro-Wayne Family Services Director Linda Biser in early January of this year. This time when she called her back she could tell things were different.



Jerri Hobbs (center), her husband Michael Everette and daughter My'Chea, 14, stand in front of their future new home at 707 N. Georgia Ave., Goldsboro.



"I said, 'No, Ms. Linda.' And she said, 'Yes!' I just started crying and shouting," Jerri said.

Now, she continued, the best part is that due to a confluence of unusual events and circumstances, they are poised to move into their home about six months earlier than planned. That also means they will be the first Habitat family to move into the new Marshall Street Neighborhood, with their new home located at 707 N. Georgia Ave.

"I'm love my neighbors and I love my neighborhood," Jerri said. "We're just so very excited. There ain't no words."

Now, she said, she hopes their story will motivate others, including a grown daughter living in Smithfield. Already, she said, she's had other people asking how they did it and how and where to apply.

"I just tell everybody about Habitat," Jerri said. "I want to inspire others. If we can do it, they can, too."